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To slightly modify his words we might say that *Hesperornis* is a Colymboid bird of great size and prodigious swimming power, which, while losing its wings and sternal keel and otherwise somewhat modifying its shoulder-girdle as the faculty of flight degenerated, has retained in its brain case, its palate (?), its mandibles, its vertebræ, its sternum, pelvis, and hind limbs resemblances to existing *Colymbi* that clearly indicate its affinities with these birds; and with these modifications we are quite in accord with Professor Thompson. — F. A. L.

**Townsend on the Birds of the Coast and Islands of Upper and Lower California.\*** — The observations here recorded were made during a cruise of the U. S. Fish Commission steamer 'Albatross' from San Francisco to the Gulf of California, during the winter of 1888-89. The collection of birds gathered by Mr. Townsend numbered 226 specimens, representing 92 species and subspecies, 11 of which are here described as new. The islands at which collections were made are San Clemente, San Nicolas, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz, off California, and Guadeloupe, Cerros, Clarion, Socorro, San Benedicte, Carmen, George, and Angel Guardia, off Lower California. The paper consists of thirteen separate lists, representing as many distinct localities at which collections were made, with a record of the specimens taken, but generally no further remarks as to whether the species were common or otherwise. The following are described as new: (1) *Speotyto rostrata*, (2) *Zenaidura clarionensis*, (3) *Troglodytes tanneri*, (4) *Puffinus auricularis*, all from Clarion Island, off Lower California; (5) *Oceanodroma socorroensis*, from Socorro Island; (6) *Amphispiza belli cinerea*, from Ballaenas Bay, Lower California; (7) *Otocoris alpestris pallida*, from near the mouth of the Colorado River, Sonora; (8) *Melospiza fasciata graminea*, from Santa Barbara Island; (9) *Helminthophila celata sordida*; (10) *Melospiza fasciata clementæ*, and (11) *Otocoris alpestris insularis*, from San Clemente Island.

A single specimen of *Halocyptena microsoma* Coues was taken in Panama Bay, March, 1888, forming the second known specimen of the species. — J. A. A.

**Palmer on Birds observed during the Cruise of the 'Grampus.'** † — The U. S. Fish Commission schooner 'Grampus,' on her summer cruise in 1887, visited the Magdalen Islands and Bird Rocks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Funk and Penguin Islands, the Mingan Islands, and

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\* Birds from the Coasts of Western North America and adjacent Islands, collected in 1888-89, with Descriptions of New Species. By Chas. H. Townsend. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XIII, 1890, pp. 131-142.

† Notes on the Birds observed during the Cruise of the United States Fish Commission Schooner Grampus in the Summer of 1887. By William Palmer. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIII, 1890, pp. 249-265.

touched at points on the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Palmer accompanying her for the purpose of observing and collecting the fish-eating birds, their eggs and young. He records 40 species of water birds, respecting most of which he has copious and very interesting notes, especially respecting the species of *Alcidæ* and *Laridæ* observed. He also noted incidentally 38 species of land birds, an annotated list of which is also presented, in which "*Corvus corax nobilis* (Ridgw.)" is doubtless a *lapsus calami* for *Corvus corax principalis* Ridgw. — J. A. A.

**Lucas on the Anatomy and History of the Great Auk.\*** — In 1887 Mr. Lucas, under the direction of the late Professor Baird, visited Funk Island for the purpose of obtaining remains of the great Auk. The object of this visit was satisfactorily accomplished, Mr. Lucas succeeding in obtaining not only a large quantity of the bones of this extinct bird, but much interesting information respecting one of its former favorite breeding resorts. The results of these investigations are given in the present paper, which opens with a chapter entitled 'The Bird Rocks and Funk Island in 1887,' occupying the first twenty pages. It includes an account of the gradual extinction of the Great Auk at the localities named, and its causes, etc., and is illustrated with a sketch map of Funk Island. The second part of the paper is on 'Skeletal Variation in the Great Auk,' the principal variations being graphically presented by means of diagrams. The paper concludes with a 'List of Books and Papers Relating to the Great Auk,' an annotated list occupying five pages, from which it appears that the earliest known reference to the Great Auk was published in 1534. There are photogravure illustrations of the mounted specimen of the Great Auk, and of the Great Auk's egg, in the collection of the National Museum. The paper presents much valuable historic and anatomical information about this flightless and now extinct bird. — J. A. A.

**Publications Received.** — **Cheney**, Simon Pease. *The Music of Birds*. (Pop. Sci. Month., June, 1891.)

**Emin**, Dr. *Brieflicher Bericht über das Vogelleben von Ugogo*. (Journ. für Orn., 1891, pp. 56-61.)

**Gätke**, Heinrich. *Die Vogelwarte Helgoland*. Large 8vo, pp. 609. Braunschweig, 1891.

**Grant**, John B. *Our Common Birds and how to know them*. Oblong 8vo, pp. 216. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1891.

**Leverkühn**, Paul. *Fremden Eier im Nest. Ein Beitrag zur Biologie der Vogel*. 8vo, pp. 212. Berlin, 1891.

**Lucas**, F. A. *Notes on the Osteology of the Paridæ, Sitta, and Chamaea*. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1890, pp. 337-345, pl. xxvii.)

**Meyer**, A. B. *Ueber einige Tauben von Borneo und den Philippinen*. (Journ. für Orn., 1891, pp. 69-74.)

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\*The Expedition to the Funk Island, with Observations upon the History and Anatomy of the Great Auk. By Frederic A. Lucas. Rep. U. S. National Museum, 1887-88, pp. 493-529, pls. lxxi-lxxiii.